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Sen. Brown announces 120th Michigan State Police Recruit School

LANSING – In an effort to replenish the Michigan State Police force and strengthen public safety across the state, the 120th Michigan State Police Trooper Recruit School will kick off this weekend, state Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township, announced.

"This is a historic moment for the Michigan State Police," said Brown, chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for State Police, Military and Veterans Affairs. "Not only will it help replenish the rank and file, but it will be the first of many steps to generate esprit de corp. All of Michigan looks forward to seeing these candidates graduate in December 2004. The Michigan State Police has a very proud tradition of service to the people of Michigan and it is heartening to see this tradition advance into the 21st century."

Held at the State Police Training Center in Lansing, the program will begin Sunday, July 18, with 115 candidates. Only about 100 candidates are expected to successfully finish and graduate to the status of trooper in December. Candidates were selected from 1,600 applicants and include 14 candidates that served in other police departments and two that participated in other police academies.

The school is a bi-partisan result of efforts by the Legislature and governor to bolster the number of troopers on the road from a multi-year low of approximately 1,000. No new troopers have graduated since February 2001.

The Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million to fund the school and the Senate and House have pledged \$7 million from the 2004-2005 budget to cover the costs of continued employment.

"Maintaining the strength of our law enforcement agencies is vital to public safety," Brown said. "We worked hard together on the budget to fund this program. This was truly a bipartisan effort to make the recruiting school a possibility."